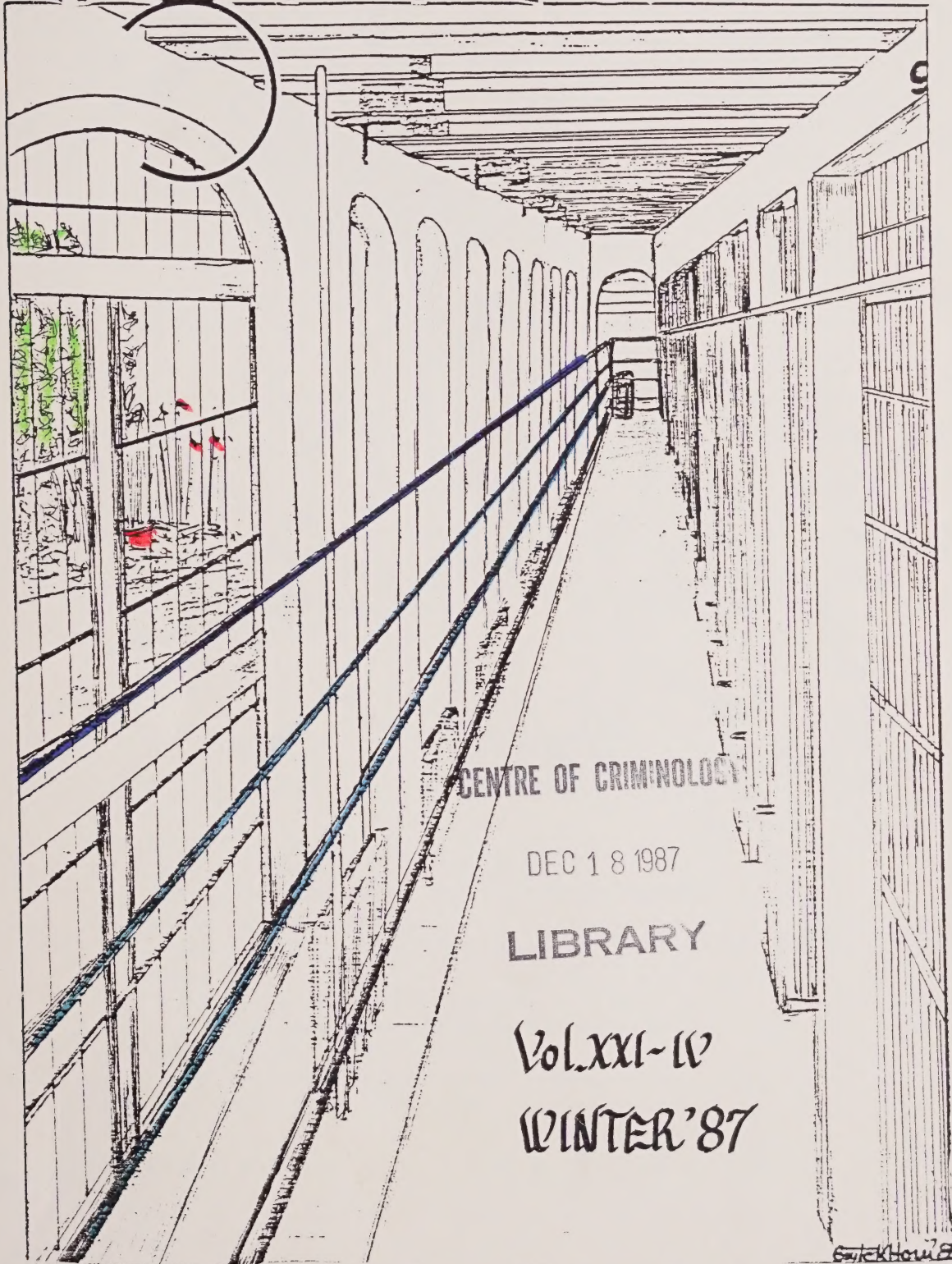


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CENTRE OF CRIMINOLOGY

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CARTOONS - POETRY - ARTWORK - FOR YOU!!!

EDITORIAL

First & foremost I want to thank all my sisters and friends for their strong support and encouragement to a new editor during her initial year in the publishing and printing business. Secondly, I would like to offer my own heartfelt congratulations to the writers and artists of this and similar publications across this country. Let us continue to hope that the honesty of the artistic human energy that flows between us will begin to seep into the consciousness of an unaware and unawakened society.

I have spent the past year allowing the turmoil of a personal life to settle while I doggedly plowed ahead into hitherto uncharted (by myself) territory of the Correctional System, the Political Polices governing its operations and the Legal Frame by which it is supposedly structured. (I still have to find out who enforces the enforcers when they go wrong - my known reality hasn't approached solving that dilemma). Other realities encountered and being explored are a large body of myths and ideals surrounding women. Namely that we are feminine only when passive, submissive, docile and hopefully peaceably silent (or at least pleasant when expressing a differing point of view). Not surprisingly, the same stereotyped myths that have kept women "in their place" are the same qualities that make for a "good" prisoner in the Correctional System. The last thing the Correctional System wants is an intelligent, rational analysis of its processes by the individuals incarcerated within its sphere. Whenever I encounter such a violent resistance to the honest, I cannot resist an intuitive shudder as if I am moving closer to some primal evil. I experience the same feeling with snakes.

The honest prisoner will eventually reach an ultimate truth that this system places no value on human life beyond a statistical number that must be rendered several times a day for count. The alternative would be a distressing amount of paperwork. The system is free to destroy our dignity in a hundred ways each and every day of our incarceration. Our minds are invaded by half-truths and lies, our bodies degraded by "routine" strip searching, our cells polluted and mauled for the "good order of the institution" and our families, friends and communities placed beyond hopeless miles from this Prison in Kingston.

Passing off this treatment as a minor feature to prison life, Corrections proudly, publicly pronounces that rehabilitation does not work. The inference being that there must be something inherently wrong with criminals who cannot take advantage of golden opportunities despite the slime covered packaging.

It is past time that the both the public and officials in government knew what corrections is all about.

Finding Alternative ways in which a person can serve a sentence in a positive framework such as in a Community Residence while accessing needed life skill programs and remaining economically productive, has long been proposed by organizations such as Elizabeth Fry, the Church Council on Justice and Corrections, the Canadian Campaign for Prison Improvement as well as by many private individuals. These people recommend principles of restoration and reconciliation be applied to legal sentences. The stigma of a criminal conviction before the Courts of Law, public embarrassment and humiliation is severe punishment. The remainder of the sentence should attempt to restore wholeness, harmony and balance to both the victim (or a surrogate) together with the convicted person.

It has long been acknowledged that prisons rarely rehabilitate. Much more commonly they create huge reservoirs of anger and bitterness built over seemingly endless years. Anyone doubting this most elementary fact should consult Jessica Mitford's book "Kind and Usual Punishment", a classic study.

At any point in recent Correctional History small residential situations could have indeed been implemented in communities across Canada, using existing community resources or creating them for the benefit of MANY citizens. Even fewer women would be in this prison today if these resources - counseling for battering, rape and incest victims, substance abuse, supplements to interrupted education and practical job training had been in place. Why has the C.S.C. resisted implementing these?

simply

LUSTR of POWER

The dominantly male C.S.C. hierarchy does not want to and will not let go of the power image created by the "Fortress" image of prison. The physical present of these macho monsters of fear is needed, not so much to protect the public, as it is to defend a false doctrine that prisoners are "subhuman and different" and must be shut away. Community residences do not portray these messages. But cells and bars do.

For any women in the Correctional System, it is well to be aware that male aspects of control are under-rated at great peril to all. For centuries men have viewed the world as a marketplace giving all resources, natural and human alike, a crude dollar value. It is so easy for today's decision makers to regard prisoners as just another "commodity factor" incarcerated for profit. Big prisons mean big contracts to big builders. There may be no profit in preventing crime or in basic rehabilitation but there is plenty of profit in Punishment. In a market economy, profit counts - not people.

Concrete and steel form a brutal framework for creating a basis of helplessness and fear. The prisoners' mask is "cold indifference"

The guards are not fooled by the Avon masks of the Sears clothes of the Female Prisoners at this Prison For Women. They see the daily suffering of women far from home and family.

The men at the top have consistently ignored these REALITIES for too many years.

Alternatives to prison do exist. It is NOW time to recognize the quality of life being drained from a main social body, as well as from the lives of all people in this Prison For Women. It is time to implement alternatives.

Jo Ann Mayhew
editor

10 YEARS LATER & WAITING!!!!

TRANSFERS

PROVINCIAL

FEDERAL

ON THIS SITE
WILL BE ERCTED
NEW
Womens
Facilities



FROM THE 1977 REPORT TO PARLIAMENT

HOW MUCH LONGER WILL THE WOMEN BE WAITING????

Mark MacGuigan Chairman

Second Session of the

Thirtieth Parliament, 1976-1977

654. The only federal institution for women is in Kingston, and was built almost a half century ago, on the same design as all the maximum security penitentiaries constructed for men over the previous 100 years. Correctional leaders and those who worked in the institution from its inception considered it totally unsuitable for women and recommended that it be phased out. One Commissioner described it as "unfit for bears, much less women". The present director, Douglas Chinnery in his evidence before the Sub-Committee said that, when alternatives are suggested for the Prison for Women, the answer runs something like this:

"Well, once we make a decision on the future of the Prison for Women we will think about that. But in the meantime, we do not know what we are going to do with the institution."

655. The witness continued:

"I would just like to add this. In 1948, when I started as a guard at the Kingston Penitentiary, I said to the fellow over there, 'What is the gray building up the street' And he said, 'Well, that is the Prison for Women, but do not worry about that because that is closing'" (21:127).

656. And they are still thinking of closing it.

657. In the light of today's advanced sociological knowledge, this institution is obsolete in every respect—in design, in programs and in the handling of the people sent there.

658. Most of the women in this tight security are in reality medium or minimum security inmates in that their character and behavior conform to the criteria set out for these lesser degrees of custody. Certainly a very small number requires maximum security custody under the formal definition.

659. Apart from the fact that most women should be in minimum or medium security, they do not require equality in punishment because most of them are not true "crims" who commit offences against others. Their offences are primarily against themselves, often referred to as "nuisance activities"—shop-lifting, prostitution, breaking and entering, drug-related activities. A sampling in mid-April, 1977, of the federal female inmates reflects the character of crime by women. Seventy-five per cent of their crimes did not involve violence; 35 per cent are drug-related. The detailed breakdown of the 140 inmates in the Prison for Women on April 14, 1977 is as follows: Murder, 9; manslaughter, 12; sex, 1; wounding, 1; assault, 2; robbery, 22; break and enter, 7; prison breach, 4; theft, 4; possession of stolen goods, 3; fraud, 17; kidnapping or abduction, 2; possession of offensive weapons, 1; narcotics, 49; other, 6.

660. The Director of the Prison for Women, advocating that rules must reflect the needs of the people in custody, said:

"I think perhaps the director of a female institution should be given more leeway. At the present time, we operate under the same directives as the male institutions. Other than clothing issue and things like that, we operate under exactly the same directives. I find it necessary to bend those directives once in a while. I hate to say this on the record, but I think the director should be able to be given a little more flexibility.

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ON A NEW NOTE

October 5, 1987, brought a new Warden, Mary Dawson Cassidy. She joined CSC in 1967 as Assistant to the Warden of the medium security Warkworth institution. She became its Assistant Warden of Administration in 1975, acting Warden in 1979 and in 1980, the first female Warden of Warkworth. This appointment also distinguished her as the first female Warden of any male prison in Canada. She moved to Joyceville as Warden in 1983 and moved to Kingston Prison, holding the same position, the following year, 1984. In 1986, she was appointed Regional Director of Planning & Regional Resource Management in Kingston under former Deputy Commissioner Arthur Trono.

The Prison for Women is unique as a prison. It is the only Federal Prison for Women in Canada and probably holds the most diversified group of women in the country.

We are representative of a much larger whole in our cultural backgrounds, nationalities, spiritual beliefs, intellectual abilities and social interests as well as our criminal convictions.

What we are looking forward to with our new Warden is the ability to communicate. Our hopes center around her ability to see us in all these areas as women, as wives, mother, sisters, daughters - as individuals - who at this point in time happen to be prisoners as well.

Whether our new Warden will grace us with maturity and permit us to earn conditions of lesser security, or whether we will be arbitrarily subjected to exercises in futility, only the Great Lord knows.

The proof is in the pudding. Maybe three times will be lucky for both Mary Cassidy and the women at P4W.

THE BURIED LIFE

Light flows our war of mocking words, and yet,
Behold, with tears mine eyes are wet!
I feel a nameless sadness o'er me roll.
Yes, yes, we know that we can jest,
We know, we know that we can smile!
But there's a something in this breast,
To which thy light words bring no rest,
And thy gay smiles no anodyne.
Give me thy hand, and hush awhile,
And turn those limp eyes on mine,
And let me read there, love! thy inmost soul.

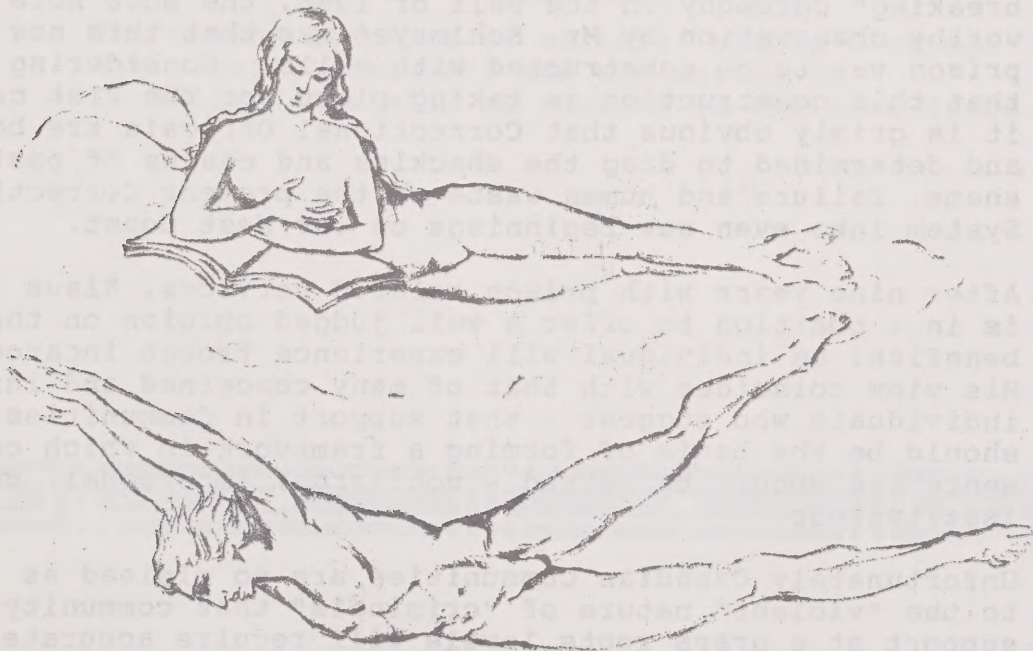
Alas! is even love to weak
To unlock the heart, and let it speak?
Are even lovers powerless to reveal
To one another what indeed they feel?
I knew the mass of men concealed
Their thoughts, for fear that if revealed
They would by other men be met
With blank indifference, or with blame reproved;
I knew they lived and moved
Tricked in disguises, alien to the rest
Of men, and alien to themselves--and yet
The same heart beats in every human breast!
But we, my love!--doth a like spell benumb
Our hearts, our voices?--must we too be dumb?

But often, in the world's most crowded streets,
But often, in the din of strife,
There rises unspeakable desire
After the knowledge of our buried life;
A thirst to spend our fire and restless force
In tracking out our true, original course;
A longing to inquire
Into the mystery of this heart which beats
So wild, so deep in us--to know
Whence our lives come and where they go.
And many a man in his own breast then delves,
but deep enough, alas! none ever mines.

Only--but this is rare--
 When a beloved hand is laid in ours,
 When, jaded with the rush and glare
 Of the interminable hours,
 Our eyes can in another's eyes read clear,
 When our world-deafened ear
 Is by the tones of a loved voice caressed--
 A bolt is shot back somewhere in our breast,
 And a lost pulse of feeling stirs again.
 The eyes sink inward, and the heart lies plain,
 And what we mean, we say, and what we would, we know.
 A man becomes aware of his life's flow,
 And hears its winding murmur; and he sees
 The meadow where it glides, the sun, the breeze.

And there arrives a lull in the hot race
 Wherein he doth forever chase
 That flying and elusive shadow, rest.
 An air of coolness plays upon his face,
 And an unwonted calm prevades his breast.
 And then he thinks he knows
 The hills where his life rose,
 And the sea where it goes.

by Matthew Arnold
 edited-jm



from original Blake 1809

Ed. 1887

Countdown to Provincial Transfers - and holding, holding...

Inquires by TIGHTWIRE into the current status of Federal Provincial Transfer Agreements are proceeding. The most interesting information being gained is the lack of action in any meaningful manner by Government Officials supposedly concerned or responsible for meaningful implementation of these Transfers.

--?1988--ALBERTA?--Very little concrete information has been made available by Alberta regarding the Women's Facilities it has scheduled to be opened in 1988. The office of the CIS (Community Information Services) at Prison For Women has written for more substantial information. Anyone interested/concerned about this area of the country would be well advised to see a specific outline of programming and services to be offered - in writing - before heading into a virtually new, unknown and untested situation.

--?1990--BRITISH COLUMBIA?--A recent visit from Vancouver based Klaus Kohlmeyer, Director of Adult Residential & Parole Supervision Programs for Women, brought little definite information about prison construction scheduled for completion in 1990 by this province. Aside from mention of a site being chosen and an expected "ground-breaking" ceremony in the Fall of 1988, the most noteworthy observation by Mr. Kohlmeyer was that this new prison was to be constructed with cells. Considering that this construction is taking place for the 21st century, it is grimly obvious that Correctional Officials are bound and determined to drag the shackles and chains of past shame, failure and human waste of the present Correctional System into even new beginnings on our West Coast.

After nine years with prison related services, Klaus is in a position to offer a well judged opinion on the benefits? an individual will experience through incarceration. His view coincides with that of many concerned and informed individuals who suggest - that support in Communities should be the basis of forming a framework in which court sentences should be served - not large, impersonal, dehumanizing institutions.

Unfortunately Canadian Communities are so mislead as to the "violent" nature of "criminals" that community support at a grass roots levels will require accurate information be made available to the public. Equally unfortunate is the fact that the moderate voice of good common sense is too often drowned out by the self-interest voices of 53,464 Police Officers in this country.

However, it should be considered that, even now, agents of our Government, themselves, are criticizing the irresponsible and misleading image of violence in Canada being created by the media. Ole Ingstrup, chairman of the National Parole Board has stated that "Canadians think the crime rate is far higher than it is. People do not realize that (92 per cent) is non-violent, that most penitentiary inmates (62 per cent) are there for the first time, and that relatively few (30 per cent) will ever return." Mr. Ingstrup's remarks are further substantiated by conclusions presented by Holly Johnson reporting for the 1987 Juristat Bulletin and detailed in "Sentencing in Canada" in this issue.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: Federal Females in Canadian Jails----

An unseasonal outbreak of the "I'll get back to you tomorrow" virus has apparently attacked some contributing writers here at P4W.

The common symptoms of writers' blocks & cramps are usually temporary and the series on Canadian Jails will be resumed in the next issue.

jm

MODELS OF JUSTICE: O L D and N E W

Retributive Justice Model

1. Crime defined as violation of the state.
2. Focus on establishing blame on guilt.
3. Adversarial relationships and process normative.
4. Imposition of pain to punish and deter/prevent.
5. Justice defined by intent and by right rules process.
6. Interpersonal conflict and nature of crime obscured conflict seen as individual versus state.
7. One social injury replaced by another.
8. Community on the sideline.
9. Action directed from state to offender;
 - victim ignored
 - offender passive
10. Offense defined in purely legal terms, devoid of moral, social, economic or political dimensions.
11. "Debt" owed to state and society only in the abstract.
12. Response focused on offender's past behavior.
13. Stigma of crime often unremovable.

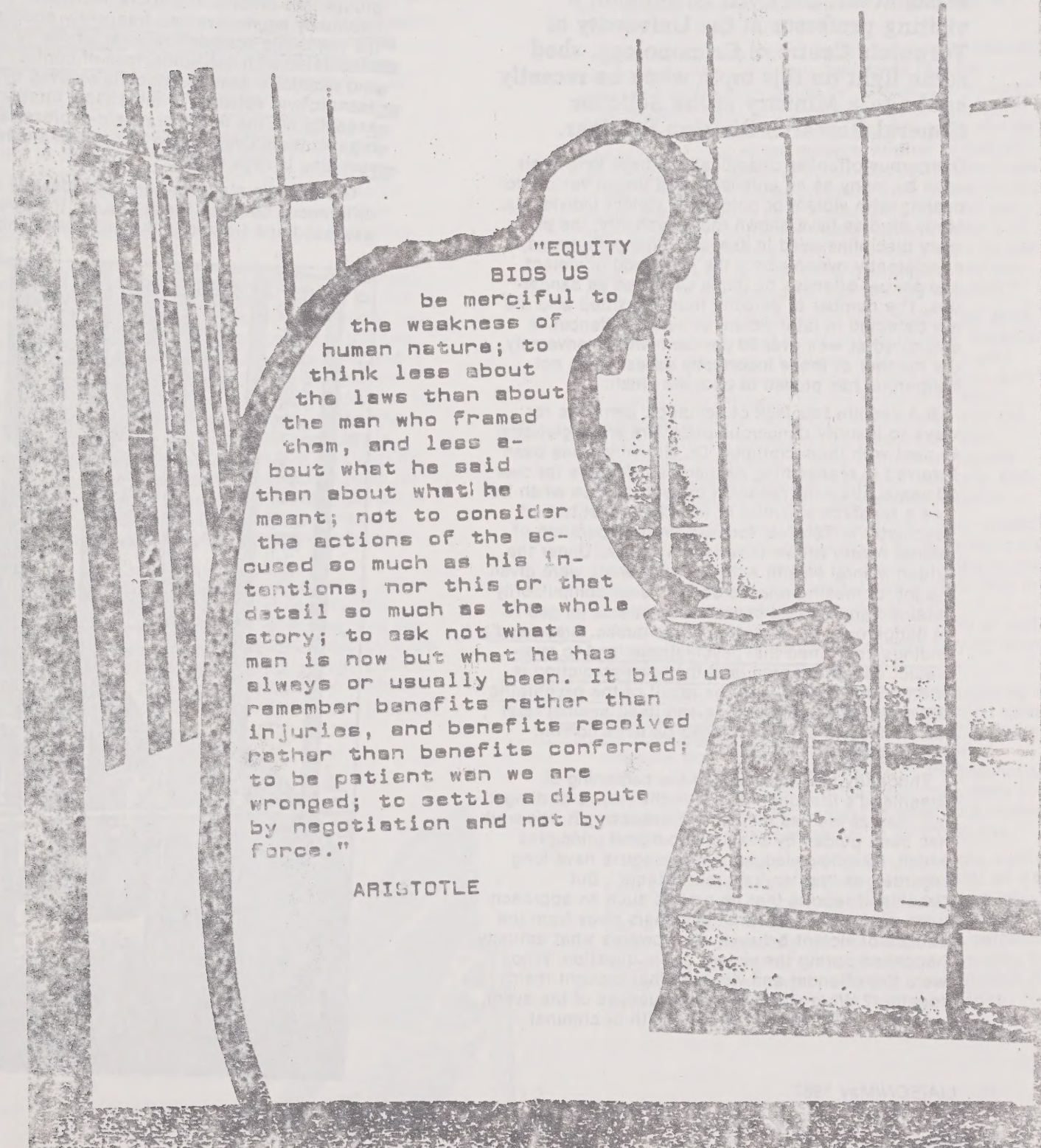
Restorative Justice Model

1. Crime defined as violation of one person by another.
2. Focus on problem-solving, on what should be done - future.
3. Dialogue and negotiation normative.
4. Restitution as a means of restoring both parties.
5. Justice defined as RIGHT relationships, judged by outcome.
6. Crime recognized as interpersonal conflict; value of conflict recognized.
7. Focus on repair of social injury.
8. Community as a facilitator to the restorative process.
9. Victim and offender's roles recognized in both problem and solution:
 - victims rights/needs recognized
 - offender encouraged to take responsibility.
10. Offense understood in whole context -- moral, social, economic and political.
11. Debt/liability to victim recognized.
12. Response focused on harmful consequences of offender's behavior.
13. Stigma of Crime removable.

thanks to UPDATE--1986
Church Council on Justice/Correcti

Twenty Years of Research in the Field of Dangerousness

Vingt années de recherche dans le domaine de la dangerosité



"EQUITY
BIDS US
be merciful to
the weakness of
human nature; to
think less about
the laws than about
the man who framed
them, and less a-
bout what he said
than about what he
meant; not to consider
the actions of the ac-
cused so much as his in-
tentions, nor this or that
detail so much as the whole
story; to ask not what a
man is now but what he has
always or usually been. It bids us
remember benefits rather than
injuries, and benefits received
rather than benefits conferred;
to be patient when we are
wronged; to settle a dispute
by negotiation and not by
force."

ARISTOTLE

The concept of the dangerous offender, one who is predisposed in some way to criminal or anti-social behavior, has been around since as early as the 18th century. But today, authorities in the mental health and criminal justice professions are as confused in many ways as their predecessors about who the dangerous offender is, what makes him tick, or even if he exists at all. Dr. Cyril Greenland, a visiting professor at the University of Toronto's Centre of Criminology, shed some light on this topic when he recently spoke to a Ministry of the Solicitor General Research Division Seminar.

Dangerous offender classifications have long been seen by many as an unreliable and unjust vehicle for dealing with violent or potentially violent individuals. Many studies have shown that psychiatry, the primary discipline used in assessing dangerousness, consistently over-predicts the likelihood of violent and sexual offences by those assessed as dangerous. The number of persons thus classified who are not detected in later violent or sexual offences is estimated at well over 60 per cent while, conversely, the number of those incorrectly assessed as not dangerous has proven to be quite small.

But despite this lack of accuracy, demands for ways to identify dangerous offenders and legislation to deal with them continue. Dr. Greenland has been involved in researching dangerous offenders for over 20 years. His early research projects, begun when he was a research scientist at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry in Toronto, focused on the operation of mental health review tribunals in Britain. Under the British Mental Health Act, these tribunals were given the job of making release decisions on compulsorily detained and treated psychiatric patients judged to be dangerous to themselves or the public. Greenland's findings confirmed that psychiatrists tend to over-predict dangerousness, and that over-prediction is often nothing more than the result of the psychiatric community's attempts to defend itself against later recriminations should released patients commit violent acts.

This early research marked the beginning of Greenland's life-long interest in the nature of dangerousness as well as methods of assessing it. His work has been guided by phenomenological principles which, he acknowledged, psychologists have long regarded as "not entirely respectable". But Greenland reports that he prefers such an approach because it shifts research emphasis away from the causes of violent behavior and towards what actually happened during the violent act in question. Who were the offender and victim? What brought them together? What were the consequences of the event, and what role did the mental health or criminal

justice system play in the aftermath? "The question for me," said Greenland, "is not 'Why did the individual do it?' but 'Why wasn't it prevented?'"

One of Greenland's major projects using this approach was a study of domestic homicides which he defined as murder or attempted murder of a family member, friend, neighbor, or any other individual the assailant had a close relationship with. His findings led him to categorize the offenders into several groups: the chronic anti-social individual who is habitually aggressive and frequently abuses alcohol; the psychotic episode murderer whose violence is associated with delusions, loss of contact with reality and emotional tension which is relieved by the assault; and episodic or situational murderers whose assaults are the result of manic-depressive illness, organic brain dysfunction or cyclical alcoholism resulting in rage states.

Greenland's study showed that, despite obvious differences between these groups, they were often assessed and treated in the same way. Individuals



...and, that official mechanisms for differentiating between those who require psychiatric help and those who would benefit most from criminal punishment are "exceedingly arbitrary if not actually dishonest." The importance of accurate dangerousness assessments is graphically illustrated by Greenland's findings because, clearly, the outcome for an offender is very different depending on which stream he is placed in.

Greenland's work on domestic homicides also led him to two other important conclusions on the clinical prediction of dangerousness. First, he submits that the urge to harm is episodic in nature and never a permanent state. "Disregarding what you read in the newspaper, there are no people in the penitentiary or mental health system who are dangerous all the time," he said.

Second, Greenland believes that dangerous behavior is almost invariably an age-sex-victim-situation-specific activity. He points out that assailants are usually young, poor and ill-educated men while their victims are most often vulnerable women and children from the same socio-economic class.

Greenland has also focused considerable energies on the study of child abuse. In 1970, he was invited by the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services to do an epidemiological study of child abuse based on the official child abuse register. His findings clearly demonstrate the extent to which child abuse was being arbitrarily defined and responded to by various children's aid organizations, underlying the importance of the role of control agencies in defining what is dangerous and what is not. Clearly, said Greenland, dangerousness assessment can no longer be confined to a study of the individual alone but must incorporate a wider spectrum of factors which influence what he calls the "dangerousness quotient".

In 1978, Greenland conducted a study of 13 child-abuse deaths in Ontario which had occurred the previous year. His findings there confirmed that the eruption of violence can often be influenced by situational factors such as poor housing, poverty and frequent relocations. The study findings also indicated that some characteristics of the victims can increase

to rough handling. For example, Greenland found that almost 10 per cent of children with cerebral palsy are abused. Later studies on 168 child abuse deaths in Ontario and the United Kingdom also showed that there was substantial pathology in the majority of cases, with up to 60 per cent of cases characterized by previous injury to the child and incidents of intervention by social agencies or police. Furthermore, there were many cases in which the assailant had exhibited help-seeking or warning behavior prior to committing the crime. Greenland's findings provide substantial evidence that incidents of violence can be predicted with greater accuracy than predicting those who will commit them.

Greenland's long career in dangerousness research has enabled him to identify two areas that he believes require more study by "colleagues younger than myself." First is the relationship of pregnancy to violence. Greenland's work in child abuse deaths has revealed that of the parents, mother or father, who killed their children, 33 per cent of the mothers in the home were either pregnant or in a post-partum state. Other studies have shown that 30 to 60 per cent of abused women are pregnant at the time of the assault. Said Greenland, "We really have to consider the role of pregnancy in creating an environment that is dangerous for women and children."

He also believes that more work should be done on the role of alcohol in violent situations. Greenland noted that as much as 70 per cent of those who commit violent offences have abused alcohol, and he is particularly intrigued by the findings of Ron Langevin, a senior research psychologist with the Clarke Institute. Langevin has discovered that alcoholism in its early stages actually increases levels of testosterone, the male sex hormone, and may be related to sexually aggressive behavior.

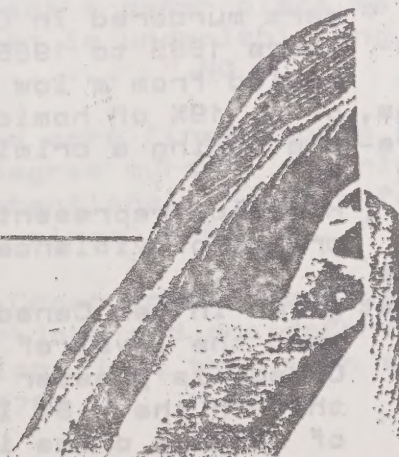
And while the links between alcohol and violence require further study, Greenland also believes more research emphasis should be put on looking at the ways that dangerous offenders use alcohol. His work has shown some individuals use alcohol not as a stimulant or facilitator but rather as a form of self-incapacitation, "by getting drunk and staying drunk until the (violent) urge passes."

Greenland concluded the seminar by stressing that research into dangerousness prediction must adopt a more holistic approach. "If you want to understand violence, and particularly the violent incident, understanding the characteristics of the individual perpetrator is not enough," he said. "You have to look at the situational context in which the violence occurs. People are not violent in all situations."

Greenland's point is well-taken, given the significant consequences of labelling an offender as dangerous and the danger to society if such an individual is not identified. Instead of trying to prevent violence by predicting who is dangerous, perhaps we should be looking for ways to alleviate poverty, promoting understanding in personal relationships and trying to curb situations that lead to violence.

Cyril Greenland

LIAISON/May 1987



SENTENCING IN CANADA, 1987

The upcoming debate on Criminal Law Reform will encompass reform on the entire structure of sentencing as well. The following article is just one aspect and opinion on sentencing in Canada of the crime of HOMICIDE.

Culpable: A breach of legal duty; fault as opposed to guilt. Culpable homicide includes murder, manslaughter, or infanticide.

Mens Rea: Mental intent or guilt of mind.

Insanity: A state of being insane, whereby one cannot understand the nature and results of his or her acts and has no legal capacity.

Murder: Killing which is unlawful.

The intentional taking of a human life is accepted as the most heinous of all crimes. It is the absolute act of which there can be no reparation to the victim. It is referred to as an animalistic, inhuman act, except in time of war, or in time of self protection, or in the giving of relief from suffering, or in protection of property, religious ideals or cultural ideals.

We are not speaking here of the elevator company with over 40 safety infractions which finally claims a victim caused by a falling elevator, nor of the collapse of an infrastructure due to faulty materials resulting in the deaths of two construction workers, nor of the mercury poisoning, asbestos poisonings, lead poisonings, etc. which have resulted and will result in the slow and agonizing deaths of thousands.

the reason, obviously, that we are not speaking of these deaths is that we know that these deaths are not intentional.

*JURISTAT. Statistics Canada
Vol.7, No.2 June 1987

No..here we shall only speak of the heinous crime of murder..or manslaughter resulting from a panicky reaction to being caught red-handed at the scene of a crime, from the jealous rage of a betrayed lover...from the morbid jealousy of a family quarrel,...from the misapplied rage of an uncontrollable urge...and very occasionally. Thank God...to the psychopathic pleasure of a twisted mind. these deaths are culpable homicide. We know these deaths are caused intentionally.

* The number of homicides between 1965 and 1975 has remained fairly stable at about 650 per year. the rate of homicides per 10,000 population increased from 1.43 in 1965 to 3.09 in 1975, and decreased over the past decade to 2.78 in 1985, and the 10 year average rate per 100,000 population (1976-1985) was 2.75 and can be compared to the average suicide rate at 14.0 per 100,000 and the rate of traffic accident deaths at 20.0.

* 39% of solved homicides occurred between people who were domestically related and 35% involved acquaintances, a total of 74% of homicides. 78% of suspects identified but not charged committed suicide.

there was no significant change in the number of on-duty police officers murdered in Canada over the years 1965 to 1985. The number varied from a low of 1 and a high of 6. 19% of homicides were committed during a criminal act.

* Homicide represents .4% of all crimes of violence in Canada, 1985.

Seven in ten Canadians believe that the level of violent crime in Canada is greater than or equal to that in the U.S. In fact the rate of serious crime in Canada is approximately 1/5 or 20% that in the U.S.

When one compares, statistically, the % of convictions of first degree to second degree to manslaughter as a % of the total homicide convictions, prior to the abolition of the death penalty in 1976, and following the abolition, one sees a pattern which has not only been broken, but has been violated in the name of JUSTICE.

If the number of homicides has remained fairly constant, then one would conclude, the %, categorically would remain constant.

The following numbers represent increases in the number of first degree and second degree murder charges versus those of manslaughter charges following 1976 and account for the highest number of people serving life sentences in Canadian history. In the 1970's, it was assumed the number of lifers would reach 1,000 by the turn of the century. Statistics from the Solicitor general's department for year ended March, 1986 give us a number of 1,239.

The 25 year minimum and 10 year minimum # of years to be served before eligibility to parole on a first degree and second degree murder conviction are penalties imposed after 1976. Prior to 1976, the minimum punishment for second degree murder was 7 years.

Do these long prison sentences make Canada a safer place to live? The answer is undeniably and irrevocably " NO " .

Are there more first degree and second degree murders occurring, more "intentional and unlawful" killing, since 1976? " NO " !.

Are the Crown prosecutors better at their jobs and are defense counsellors just that much worse, since 1976?..... " NO " !.

Why, then are there more first and second degree charges and convictions now than prior to 1976? We are speaking of a material increase, not a marginal increase. We are speaking of 37% to 71%, murder to manslaughter convictions prior to 1976 to 90% to 9% , murder to manslaughter charges following 1976.

It is another undeniable fact that a Crown prosecutors record is made on cases "won", and further that murder convictions "won" are far superior performance ribbons than manslaughter convictions. The political reputations of this category of "professional" have been embellished at the expense of the very tenets of JUSTICE, these Queen and Country representatives are supposedly sworn to uphold.

The second set of statistics are those which provide the reader with a very real picture of the monetary cost of a life sentence.

There is no chart available which can account for the human misery, the torturous suffering for families and friends of a convicted killer.

There is no chart available and no questions asked about the high number of guilty pleas, the largest % of those doing life sentences who have never been to prison before, who chose not to go to trial to spare their families the debasing publicity or order to protect other innocent parties.

There are no statistics released on the number of lifers who commit suicide while in prison.

Alternatives to life sentences can be found giving some reparation to the families of the victims, some reparation to society, ...some grace to the family of the convicted....
....Some meaning.

From the adjoining statistics, one may argue that the # of convictions cannot be compared with the # of charges, and that empirical evidence is not used., therefore a conclusion cannot be surmised. There has been only a 10 year period since abolition of capital punishment, so figures used are those I was able to avail in time to meet publishing deadlines. I would welcome additional statistics, any corrections, and any challenges or discussion to the conclusions drawn from the evidence as presented.

Set I
The seven year average from 1965 to 1971 illustrates a ratio of 6%: 28%: 65% convictions for capital murder: non-capital murder: manslaughter.

Set II
The two year average of charges for years 1975 & 1976 while capital punishment still in place illustrates a ratio of: 2%: 87%: 10% charged for capital murder: non-capital murder: manslaughter.

Set III
The eight year average from 1977 to 1984 illustrates a ratio of 38%: 52%: 9% charges for first degree murder: second degree murder: manslaughter.

It appears evident that the abolition of the death penalty brought a disturbing increase in the number of first degree murder charges. Why?

It is evident that the number of convictions for first degree and second degree murder would therefore illustrate a disturbing increase, and where these sentences are now longer than at any time in Canadian history.

One would think that a conclusion could be reached that if the number of murders in Canada have been relatively stable, then the number of prisoners convicted and serving life sentences would as well be stable. This is clearly not the case. Why?

Will Parliament bring forth a qualitative and quantitative study regarding this disparity? Will Parliament take the statistics from the department of the Solicitor General and demand answers to the questions posed here?

Will the Canadian public be able to set aside their unfounded fears and desire for revenge LONG ENOUGH TO OPEN THEIR MINDS TO THE TRUTH? Justice is NOT being served in Canada.

Fear is being fed, at the cost of thousands and thousands of lives and Billions of dollars.

SENTENCING IN CANADA 1987

	'65	'66	'67	'68	'69	'70	'71	7Yr. Ave.	%
Murder, Capital	19	09	07	01	-0-	03	-0-	06	06%
Murder, Non-Capital	36	34	36	25	22	37	27	31	28%
Manslaughter	50	69	75	70	98	65	70	71	55%
Infanticide	-0-	02	02	02	01	-0-	05	01	01%
Totals	105	114	120	98	121	105	102	109	100%

Source: Ruby Sentencing. Persons Charged and Convicted

II	'75	'76						2Yr. Ave.	%
Charged									
First Degree	07	11					09	01.7%	
Second Degree	459	467					463	87.3%	
Manslaughter	55	53					54	10%	
Infanticide	01	04					2	1%	
Totals	522	535					528	100%	

PRIOR TO ABOLITION
OF THE DEATH PENALTY

Charged	'77	'78	'79	'80	'81	'82	'83	'84	8Yr. Ave.	%
III										
First Degree	165	219	202	186	216	236	237	222	210	38% ***
Second Degree	339	316	309	248	282	289	288	243	289	52%
Manslaughter	54	52	36	49	40	48	55	47	48	9%
Infanticide	03	05	03	04	01	01	06	01	03	1%
Totals	561	592	550	487	539	574	586	483	550	100%

Charged II & III.

Source: Women & Crime in Canada, July, 1986 H. Johnson, Statistics. Dept. Solicitor General Canada.

*** FOLLOWING ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY, Guiltyconvictioes of First Degree Murder punishment of 25 years in prison. Second degree Murder became minimum of 10 years punishment in prison from 7 years. prior.

SENTENCING IN CANADA, 1987 -5-

As at March 31, 1985 there were 1239 people serving life sentences in Canada.

I	First Degree Conviction (25 before parole)	307	323	26%
	Second Degree " (25 before parole)	16		
II	Second Degree " (11- 24 before parole)	220	220	18%
III	Second Degree " (10 before parole)	696	696	56%
				1,239 100%

Costs to warehouse 1,239 lifers for a total (cumulative) of (4845+ 3,850 +6,960 =) 15,655 life years is as follows:

Figures from CSC Statistics, Dept. of the Solicitor General.

	Men	Women
Maximum Security costs per prisoner per year	\$50,000	\$57,000
Medium	36,800	No. Med.
Minimum	\$40,300	No. Min.

Category I Estimate of the 25 years, 15 years will be spent in max. security. 320 men, 3 women.
 $(320 \times 15 \times \$50,000) + (3 \times 15 \times \$57,000)$
 $= \$240,000,000 + 42,565,000 = \$242,565,000$
 Estimate 5 years at med. security and 5 years at min. security for men. $(320 \times 5 \times \$36,800) + (320 \times 5 \times \$40,300) + (3 \times 10 \times \$57,000) = \$58,880,000 + \$64,480,000 + \$1,710,000 = \$125,070,000$
 Total: \$367,635,000

Category II Estimate low ave. of 17.5 years., 12 in Max. security, 3 in Med. security, 2.5 in Min. Security (219 men, 1 woman)
 $(219 \times 12 \times \$50,000) + (219 \times 3 \times \$36,800) + (219 \times 2.5 \times \$40,300) + (1 \times 17.5 \times \$57,000) = \$131,400,000 + \$24,177,600 + \$22,064,500 + \$997,500 =$
 Total: \$178,639,350

Category III Estimate of 10 years, 6 years in Max. Sec., 2 years in Med. Security, 2 years in Min. Security for 670 men.
 9 years in Maximum security for women. $(670 \times 6 \times \$50,000) + (670 \times 2 \times \$36,800) + (670 \times 2 \times \$40,300) + (26 \times 9 \times \$57,000) = \$201,000,000 + \$49,312,000 + $54,002,000 + $13,338,000 =$
 Total: \$317,652,000

Final Warehousing Costs for 1,239 people wasting a total of 15,655 human years caged.

Correc-
tional
Services
Canada

\$863,926,000

= Costs....IF REMAIN UNCHANGED FOR
NEXT 25 YEARS.
= \$55,185,308 per year =
= \$151,193 per DAY !!!#???

Please add to the figures on the previous page from Solicitor-General and Dept. of Justice 1985-1986 Annual Reports:

1/6 Ministry Secretariat	\$ 19,973,000
National Parole Board	14,784,000
Criminal Legal Aid	23,800,000
Native courtworkers	3,200,000
Asst. Dept. Attorney General, Criminal Law	1,160,610
Canadian Sentencing Commission	787,104

1/6 of Minister's Office, Deputy Minr. Asst. Dept. Min. Legis. Progr. Policy. Progr. S Res. Admin.	\$ 11,477,908
--	---------------

Annually	\$75,182,622
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For estimate take 10% (% represented by lifers of total federally incarcerated)

± Sol. Gen S	\$ 7,518,262
Justice Dept.	
Add CSC	\$ 55,185,308

ANNUALLY	\$ 62,703,570
----------	---------------

year after year after year
 after Year after Year after
 year after year after year
 after year after year after
 year after, year after year, .
 ...after...year...after...1
 year....after...YEAR...AFTER
YEAR...AFTER...YEAR.....
AFTER....YEAR
AFTER.....YEAR.....
AFTER.....
YEAR.....
 AFTER YEAR....AFTER YEAR....
AFTER.....
 ,,::::##!!YEAR?????
 ???????#?????##!!!!!!1?????

Of those lifers who actually committed murder,..we will be judged yet by the Absolute Judge of all. We must live every moment of our lives with the horrifying knowledge of our own capabilities reflected in the faces and hearts of our families and our friends..the endless grief of our victim's families. We admit to Sin.

Is the answer in destroying any possible good we could yet do in this lifetime? There is no reparation to the victim. One cannot change the past. One cannot forget.

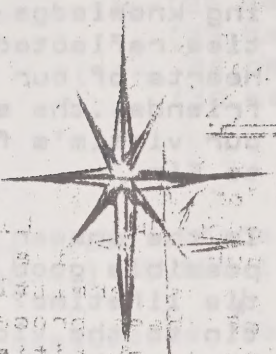
Is the answer in locking us up for 10 - 25 years at a cost of over ONE BILLION dollars to the public? Give us jobs for these years permitting us to give a % of these proceeds to the families or to charities..there ARE alternatives to this compounding waste of human resources and monetary resources.

The myth of the dangerous killer is being exploited to the fullest by television and the media, with full permission of guess who? the truly dangerous criminal is psychotic, and should be in a hospital, not a prison.

Revenge? An expensive "security blanket" which satisfies -0-, Not Justice, Not suffering of the victim's families, not the 15,655 cumulative total of years of suffering of the 1,239 families of lifers, NOTHING is satisfied, but the provision of jobs in an industry built on blood and lies.

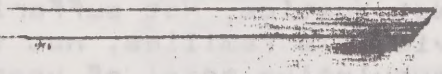
I can think of thousands of alternative industries which could be providing those same people with jobs, retrained people to add to the joy of humanity, not to the suffering of humanity.

Kyoko/87

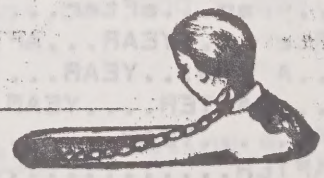


IF I SHOULD WAKE BEFORE I DIE

I'D PAINT THE STARS AND COLOR THE MOON
ON HIGH
I'D FLY FASTER THAN THE EYE
I'D CROSS THE OCEANS IN A SPOON
I'D BUILD A PALACE MADE OF GOLD
I'D TELL OF FORTUNES NEW AND OLD
I'D SAIL THE SEAS IN ALL THE FOUR
CORNERS OF THE WORLD
I'D SPEAK TO THE WISE MEN IN TIBET
I'D SELL THE BEST HORSES WHEN YOU BET
BUT MOST OF ALL, I'D SHEAR THESE CHAINS
THAT SQUEEZE MY WRISTS AND ANKLES TOO
TO CEASE THE PAIN I'VE BROUGHT TO YOU.



DORIANA AUG. /87



DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO HUNGER FOR JUSTICE

From "THE PRISONER" by Emily Bronte (1818-1848)

"Still, let my tyrants know, I am not doomed to wear
Year after year in gloom, and desolate despair;
A messenger of Hope comes every night to me,
And offers for short life, eternal liberty:

"He comes with western winds, with evening's wandering airs,
With that clear dusk of heaven that brings the thickest stars,
Winds take a pensive tone, and stars a tender fire,
And visions rise, and kill me with desire.

"Desire for nothing known in my mature years,
When Joy grew mad with awe, at counting future tears.
When, if my spirit's sky was full of flashes warm,
I knew not whence they came, from sun or thunderstorm.

But, first, a hush of peace--a soundless calm descends;
The struggle of distress and fierce impatience ends;
Mute music soothes my breast--unuttered harmony,
That I could never dream, til Earth was lost to me.

"Then dawns the Invisible; the Unseen its truth reveals;
My outward sense is gone, my inward essence feels:
Its wings are almost free--its home, its harbor found,
Measuring the gulf, it stoops--and dares the final bound.

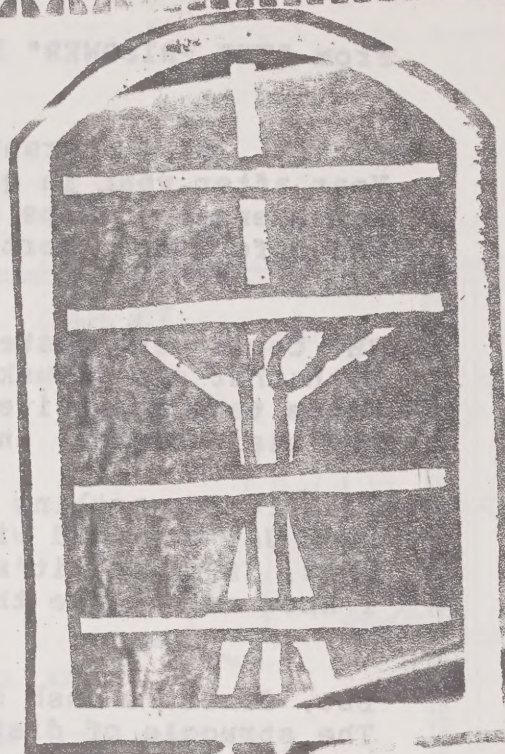
"Oh! dreadful is the check--intense the agony--
When the ear begins to hear, and the eye begins to see;
When the pulse begins to throb, the brain to think;
The soul to feel the flesh, and the flesh to feel the chain.

"Yet I would lose no sting, would wish no torture less;
The more that anguish racks, the earlier it will bless;
And robed in fires of hell, or bright with heavenly shine,
If it but herald death, the vision is divine!

She ceased to speak, and we, unanswering, turned to go--
We had no further power to work the captive woe:
Her cheek, her gleaming eye, declared that man had given
A sentence, unapproved, and overruled by Heaven.

"Our fathers claimed,
 by obvious madness moved,
 man's innocent
 until his guilt is proved.
 They would have known,
 had they not been confused,
 he's innocent until he's accused."

By Odgen Nash



"Bound No'th Blues"

Goin' down de road, Lawd,
 Goin' down de road.
 Down de road, Lawd,
 Way, way down de road.
 Got to find somebody
 To help me carry dis load.

Road's in front o' me,
 Nothin' to do but walk.
 Road's in front o' me,
 Walk ... and walk ... and walk.
 I'd like to meet a good friend
 To come along an' talk.

Hates to be lonely,
 Lawd, I hates to be sad.
 Says I hates to be lonely,
 Hates to be lonely an' sad,
 But ever friend you finds seems
 Like they try to do you bad.

Langston Hughes

Once more on my adventure brave and new:
Fearless and unperplexed,
When-I wage battle next,
What weapons to select, what armor to indue.

Youth ended, I shall try
My gain, or loss thereby;
Leave the fire ashes, what survives is gold:
And I shall weigh the same,
Give life its praise or blame:
Young, all lay in dispute; I shall know, being old.

from Rabbi Ben Erza
by Robert Browning

DEDICATED TO CLAIRE CULHANE

October 18, 1987--I do believe I was about to add another verse to Kris Kristopherson's "Sunday Morning Coming Down", when I was called out to the visiting room. Once again, that miracle of dedication and energy, Claire Culhane had appeared.

Sitting beside a gritty veteran of civil rights campaigns that stem from the days from the Spanish Civil War to Viet Nam, I am very much ashamed at my own sagging spirit. I feel most privileged to be among those she is able to visit on this trip east.

As the titles of her books suggest, Barred from Prison, and Still Barred from Prison, her interest in the welfare of prisoners in the Canadian Correctional System has not been highly welcomed on many fronts. Only a system with much to hide would bar a silver haired woman for seeking answers to questions as simple as "Why are prisoners not being allowed to attend family funerals? or just Who is being "selected" for those cells in Renous? and What about the Cartier Prison soon to be opened?

With the wisdom of seventy years of living Claire views the expansion of the Prison Industry with alarm. To paraphrase words that survived the holocaust -

When they imprisoned the poor	I didn't speak up
When they imprisoned the natives	I didn't speak up
When they imprisoned the radicals	I didn't speak up
When they came for me	

by j. mayhew

NO ONE WAS LEFT TO SPEAK

DID YOU REALLY CARE

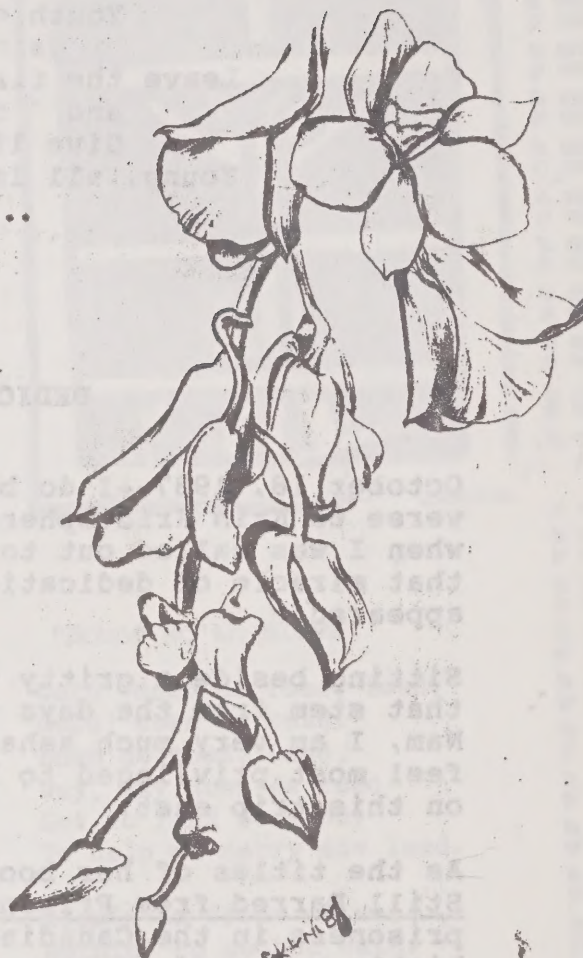
For days I wondered around
wondering how you were doing;
out there where no one cares
and society stops to stare
My heart crying out for your touch
remembering the "promises" we shared....
Did you really care?

As each day passed, and I recieved
no word from you...
No postcard, no letter, no phone call
my eyes misted, my fears increased
my heart skipped many a beat
my hopes and dreams fading....
Did you really care?

I recalled all the laughter, the joy
the sorrow and disappointments
blaming myself for not trusting you
not having the strengths you needed
to survive this one last hurdle
so we could, at last, be together
forever thinking.....
Did you really care?

Then, one day, when I was feeling
like my world had ended, my dreams had died
Behold ! a message
saying "you were here"...
and that you really did care!

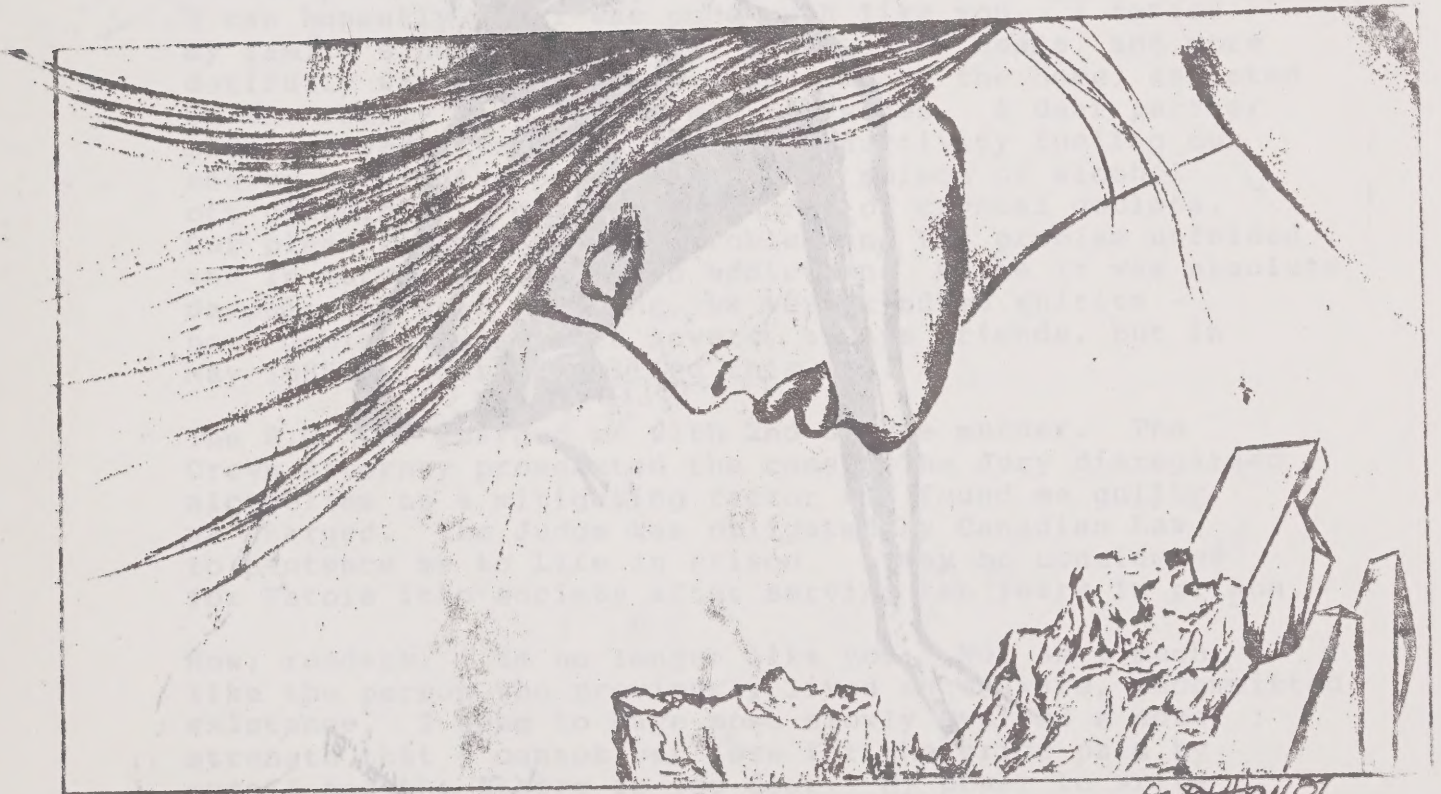
Phoebe '87



A CRYSTAL SHARD

UPON A MYSTIC OCEAN BLUE
A CASTLE SPRUNG AMONG THE HUE
CRYSTAL-TALL, AND FANCY TOO
IT WAS A SANCTUARY FOR HIM AND YOU
A MAKE-BELIEVE OF CHILDHOOD DREAMS
TRANSPARENT GOWNS OF SHIMMERING LIGHT
VELVET-TAILORED GENTS WITH LEGS ASTRIDE
PUMPKIN CARRIAGES AND FROG-LIKE HORSEMEN
INSIDE, THE SECRET LAY WELL-HIDDEN
A CRYSTAL SHARD THAT WAS FORBIDDEN
KINGS AND KNIGHTS OF ARMOR AND RIGHTS
FOUGHT HARD AND LONG MANY NIGHTS
QUEENS AND MAIDENS HELD THEIR LOVERS
CLOSE TO THEM SO TIGHT
BUT NO ONE EVER SAW A GLIMPSE
OF THE CRYSTAL SHARD.

DORIANA



Gregory 4/4/57

UPON A MYSTIC OCEAN BLUE
A CASTLE SPRUNG AMONG THE MUE
CRYSTAL-TALL, AND FANCY TOO
IT WAS A SENSUOUS BOYHIM AND YOU
A MAKE-BELIEVE OF CHIMWOOD DREAMS
TRANSPARENT GOWN OF SHIMMERING LICE
VET-TAILORED GOWN WITH LEGS ASIDE
MURKIN CARRIAGES AND FROG-LIKE NOSE
WIDE, THE SECRET LAW WELL-HIDDEN
CRYSTAL SHARD THAT WAS FORBIDDEN
KNIFE AND KNIGHTS OF ARMOR AND KNIGHTS
NOT HARD AND LONG MANY NIGHTS
DREAMS AND MAIDENS HELD THEIR LOVER
DROPT TO THEM SO TIGHT
BUT ONE EVER SAW A GLIMPSE
OF THE CRYSTAL SHARD.



Capitain '07

DEDICATED TO A SEA CHANGE

I am writing to you to-day from the Prison For Women in Kingston, Ontario. I have long held writers in awe and as I haltingly take steps to follow the examples of my private models, i find the exercise exhausting. The struggle for me lies in wrestling a flow of mind ideas into forms that are coherent and meaningful through more clumsy fingertips and a rigid awkward alphabet.

Today, i have found that energy by allowing myself to sink into a seemingly bottomless well of sadness that rests inside me. Today is the wedding day of my eldest daughter. Here in Prison in Kingston, i will not see or hear or feel or touch a single moment or breath of her day of commitment and celebration. Like many other women, my attachment to my first born child is especially profound. Despite the passing of twenty-three years, the event of her birth remains clearly etched in my own soul as a birth of glorious joy. She knows of my feelings. But I am in Kingston, a thousand and hundreds of miles from her wedding feast in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.

Gentle public , lawful readers, this is oh, so very sad. I can honestly say i was once much like you. I tended my family's needs. I cooked most loving meals, and more dutifully washed the clothes and tended the home, assisted on the family farm and worked for wages. A dear partner and i, lived lives of external productivity fueling our energy and fantasies with the soul poison of alcohol oft disguised in glittering shards of crystal goblets. Our pleasure grew to be a problem and the problem unfolded and in turn engulfed us in addiction. Maybe it was absolute despair and self loathing, we were kindred spirits - both Gemini - sometimes lovers, always friends, but in May 1985, i shot and killed this man.

The R.C.M.P. charged me with 2nd degree murder. The Crown Attorney prosecuted the case. The Jury disregarded alcoholism as a mitigating factor and found me guilty as charged. The Judge was obligated by Canadian Law to sentence me to Life in Prison. I may be considered for Parole into society after serving ten years in prison.

Now, readers, i am no longer like you. Nor am i much like the person who previously lived an unaware, uncommitted existence. I seem to have most slowly evolved a sober strength that i cannot yet love for the price paid by myself and the others is too dear. My power to write has been paid in blood. I will use the honesty of that admission, the pain of guilt and remorse, the pain of my separation from my daughter on this day, to fuel the words that need to be said and read. I write to alert, to warn and to alarm a dangerous unconsciousness into considered positive action.

Readers, i desperately believe we are engaged in a battle to save individual rights and basic human dignity from becoming anchoritic elements of a dimly remembered past. I arrived at the Prison For Women in the Fall of 1985. I had few, if any, preconceived notions of what prison was or should be, beyond stereo-typed images from B grade films and a generalized idea that i was being punished on my way to rehabilitation as a sane individual. The fact that i was female seemed rather irrelevant to the whole procedure (in my eyes). How totally wrong and ignorant i was on all these accounts.

I was sent to Kingston because i was a woman. The Province of Nova Scotia - indeed the entire Maritime Region, has no facility for female offenders sentenced to prison for two years or more. My deportation was predetermined. I have since learned that during the last ten years or more, Provincial Transfer Agreements have been signed by the Federal Government with most provinces (Ontario being the sole exception). A recent visitor from an Advisory Committee to the Solicitor General of Canada, James Kelleher, appeared mildly astonished that these paper agreements were not in operation. One can only wonder at how well connected Mr. Kelleher can be to the realities of this Prison in the absence of accurate reports.

The fact is, i write in Ontario while my daughter marries in Nova Scotia. The fact is my best friend is agonizingly attempting to be allowed to serve her sentence in British Columbia, close to a husband recovering from a major cardiac arrest. Her request for a humanitarian transfer on compassionate grounds is being denied. The fact is that Native Women from the Prairie Provinces are most commonly singled out, earmarked, for transfer to Kingston, because they are Native.

Both Federal and Provincial Governments claim that there are not enough funds available to incarcerate women in their home provinces. The fact is it is costing you, the tax payer, between \$60,000. - \$70,000. per year, for each Female Prisoner housed in Kingston, away from family and community, in a living situation of combined cages and recycled army barracks with only a superficial semblance of programming.

I was confused, disoriented and distressed upon my arrival at this Prison. I was allowed to go to the Psychiatric Treatment Centre. This is a quasi-medical unit located at Kingston Prison (KP) one of the oldest prisons in Canada and now dedicated to handling Protective Custody Inmates, frequently men who have demonstrated severe attitude problems towards women. Women have been allotted five cells in what is best described as a setting for

a gothic horror movie. This represents a recent compromise between a proposed psychiatric hospital complex and nothing.

After several winter months in such surroundings, i was pleased to return to the Prison For Women. I was given work as a cleaner and permitted to brush up the typing and word processing skills with which i had previously been acquainted. My own single interest was in receiving help/treatment for alcoholism. I attended A.A. meetings and was dismayed to find them cancelled if their scheduling conflicted with Bingo or a dance. I would not ignore the seriousness of my addiction and found the passive acceptance of so little programming in this area very hard to understand. The Administration took time to explain that their function was to incarcerate not rehabilitate - apparently efforts? in that direction had proved unsuccessful.

However, i inadvertently learned that male prisoners in this same area of Ontario, were being offered an extensive substance abuse rehabilitation program called "Brentwood" while serving their sentences. With the self-serving determination quite characteristic of the alcoholic, i attempted to propose a similar program be offered to women at the Prison For Women (P4W).

At about this same time, i had been appointed to the prisoners' magazine TIGHTWIRE. Now, not only my personal observation, but the statistical information of records and files revealed that a working figure of close to 80% could be used as a guide to the number of women at P4W, who had been affected by substance abuse. Similar grim statistics also revealed that 60% or more of this prison's population had been victims of incest, rape or battering.

With renewed purpose, i pursued the "Brentwood" concept until through a wonderfully inadvertent meeting, i was introduced to members of Women In Sobriety. This is a relatively new women's self-help concept basically dedicated to promoting what i call active sobriety. I hold fast to One Day at a Time, it has saved my sanity but i have added the caring and confidence of WIS to this most basic wisdom.

It took many months to have this positive program introduced into this prison. The entire project was almost abandoned for "lack of available funds". The visiting moderators had asked for a bi-monthly fee of \$65. to cover their traveling costs from Ottawa to Kingston and back.

Keeping in mind the \$60,000. cost per year and the magnitude of the abusive substance problem, this "lack of funding" would be ludicrous if not so tragic in human terms and an inexcusable suspect waste of tax dollars.

It is time to give Alternatives a try.

j. mayhew

Be Strong they say ...yes

Be Calm they say ...yes

Be Quiet they say ...yes

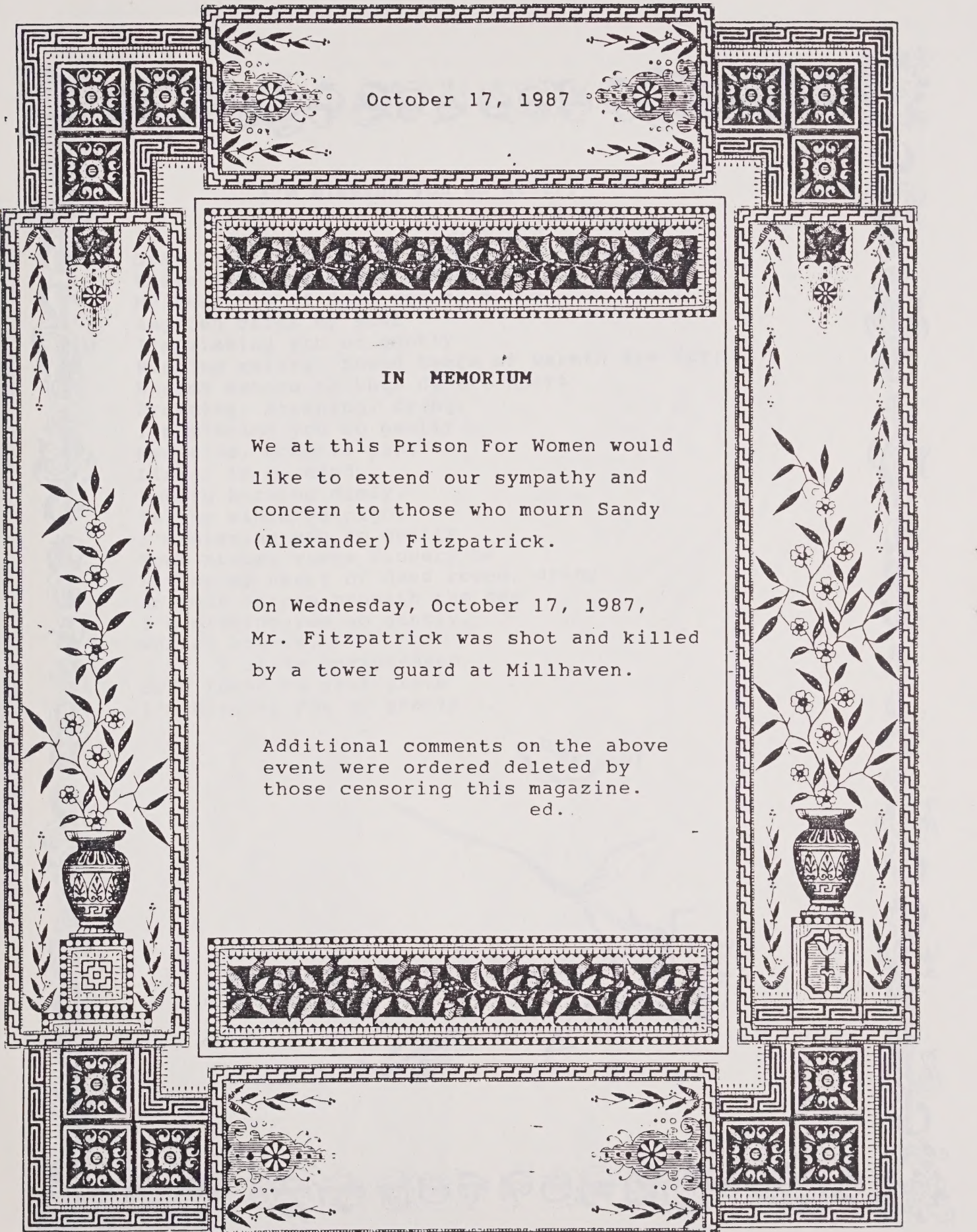
But When can I cry?
But When can I scream?
But When can I laugh?

Not Now they say ...no

Be a good prisoner
 they say
Ignore your neighbour's troubles
 they say
Good prisoners are
 released early...yes
Good People are not
 no.

G.K.H./87





October 17, 1987

IN MEMORIUM

We at this Prison For Women would like to extend our sympathy and concern to those who mourn Sandy (Alexander) Fitzpatrick.

On Wednesday, October 17, 1987, Mr. Fitzpatrick was shot and killed by a tower guard at Millhaven.

Additional comments on the above event were ordered deleted by those censoring this magazine.
ed.

I'm missing you so gently

Gray loneliness of suffocation,
these walls of steel and stone.
My heart is of dead roses, dying
Anguish cries my soul
I'm missing you so gently
Running waters, these tears of warmth are dry;
Washed ashore to this desert heart
Drowning, drowning, dying.
I'm missing you so gently
Memories, moments past
Linger in my mind
Embers burning dimly,
In the winter's night
I'm missing you so gently
Tomb-stones where flowers be
Laying my heart of dead roses, dying
on your corpse beneath the sea
I'm missing you so gently
Wasted breath,

I leave unexpressed
dead roses on your grave
I'm missing you so gently...

by mickey



The island of Van Dieman's Land, now the Australia state of Tasmania, was settled by the British in the 19th century when they needed a new penal colony. In 1832, there were approximately 1,500 ticket of leave convicts 7,000-in assigned service I including the bulk of the 1,000 female felons).2,000 in public works, 500 in chain gangs, and 500 in hard labour with or without chains. There are

traces of convict days in Port

Arthur. In an area known as the Cascades

the ruined walls of the notorious "Female Factory", can still be found.

The LAST TRIBAL ABORIGINAL, "TRUGANNINI", was buried

within the walls of the factory in 1876 in an attempt to fulfill her final wish "-Not to be CUT" after her death. Her last years had been filled with a fear of being dismembered in pieces to

various medical

collection s as had the LAST

tribal male, "WILLIAM LANNE".

Fortunately, burial instructions were later reversed. Poor Trugannini's skeleton sat on in the Hobart Museum until more enlightened governments had it taken & cremated.

"Un-her actions reversed.

display seum un-govern-down

BEARBERRY

by Lorene Benoit

The herb I have chosen for my fifth *OptiMSt* issue is a well known Yukon plant, abundant, easy to collect, and particularly useful to women...any guesses? It is Uva Ursi; also known as kinnikinnick and bearberry. Uva Ursi, both in Greek and Latin, means "bear's grape". Legend has it that it was named this because only bears could stand the taste of its berries.

This plant is a member of the Heath family, and of the genus *Arctostaphylos*. Therefore the scientific name is *Arctostaphylos Uva Ursi*. It is related to what we commonly call Alpine or Black Bearberry (*A. Alpina*) and Red Bearberry (*A. rubra*).

bladder and kidneys, strengthening and imparting tone to the urinary passages. It is useful in any cases where calculi build up has occurred, and can help dissolve kidney and bladder stones or gravel within the genito-urinary system. The leaves contain a glucoside called Arbutin, which is absorbed then excreted by the kidneys. Although this may at first seem like a waste of time it isn't. During the excretion, Arbutin exercises an antiseptic effect on the mucous membranes of the urinary tract. Some specific examples where Uva Ursi would be useful are: for women - curing leucorrhea, sometimes referred to as "the whites"; cystitis; irregular menstruation; for children -





To identify the plant look for many branched, trailing stems which are covered with a scaly brownish-red bark. The evergreen leaves have a leathery texture, 1/2 to 1 inch long, oval shape, with the edges being slightly rolled down. The word evergreen is a key trait to help distinguish Uva Ursi from Red Bearberry, which has deciduous leaves. The leaves have a bitter taste. The flowers, which have long since been gone are pale pink. The berries are red, mealy and if opened should bear 5 tiny stones, each containing one seed.

Now that we can identify the plant, let's go on to some of its uses. Uva Ursi is considered an excellent *emmenagogue*. Definition: herb that acts as a corrector or regulator to the female reproductive system. Uva Ursi is primarily an *astringent* (promotes tissue firmness) and a *diuretic* (increases urine flow).. Like juniper berries (see April issue) it also has *antiseptic* and *disinfectant* properties. Because of these properties, Uva Ursi is of great value in diseases of the

bed wetting; for men - prostrate problems.

The simplest way to use this herb is by making an infusion. To do this pour one cup of boiling water over a tablespoon of leaves and let steep at least fifteen minutes or until cool. Diuretics are more effective when taken cold. Fresh or dried leaves may be used.

Now is a good time of the year to collect and dry Uva Ursi leaves for future use. Although the leaves remain all year round, winter leaves will not have the strength that they do in September. Gather them on a sunny day, in the morning after any dew has dried. Plants or herbs can be dried on racks, screens, or cheesecloth, out of direct sunlight, with an ideal temperature between 25 and 40 degrees Celsius (70 and 100 F).

If you are interested in herbal classes this fall, please call Lorene at 668-2207.

Information in this column is not intended for prescriptive use. The author does not recommend self-treatment based on the content of this column and accepts no responsibility as a result thereof.



A Kutchin Chief, a drawing from the reproduction by Sir John Richardson, 1851.

The Kutchin or Loucheux, a group of tribes inhabited the basin of the Peel river from its source to its junction with the Mackenzie, and the entire basin of the Yukon from the mouth of the Pelly river downward,

The Kutchin shirt was unique in that it had long fringes decorated with seeds or with beads of dentalia shells, & bead or porcupine-quill embroidery on breast & shoulders & back. Men wore head-bands, necklaces, and nose-pendants of the same shells.

The Kutchin never purchased slaves, & never acquired any in war, for they massacred all without mercy, sparing only some of the younger women for wives. Their own women received no gentle treatment, performing all the hard work, transporting all possessions, ate only after the men had eaten & had no voice in family or tribal affairs. Mothers often killed their girl babies to spare them the hardships they themselves had undergone.

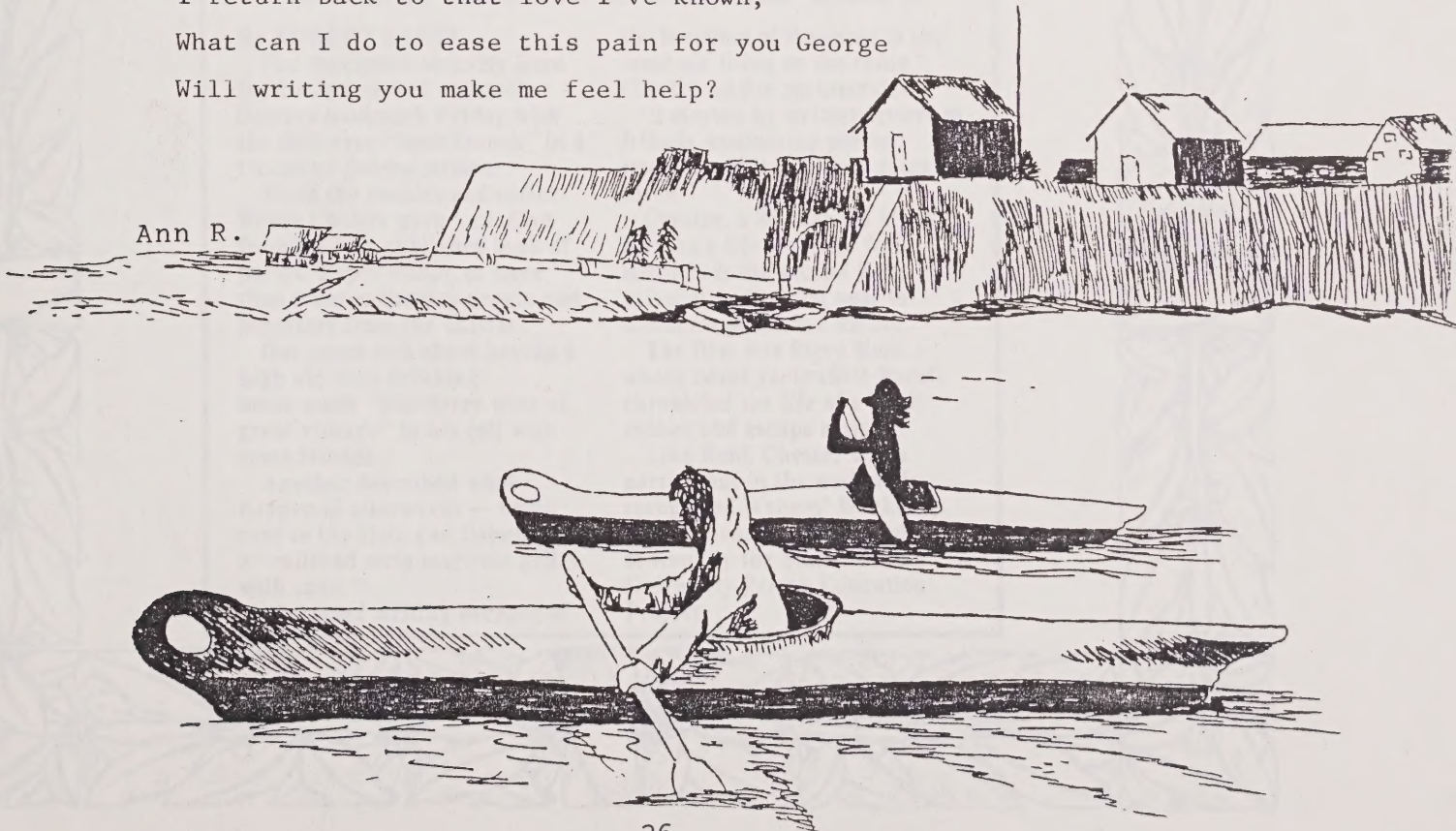
"Indians of Canada", JENNESS, D

GEORGE

March 21, 1987

What can I do to ease the pain of my absence
Tell me and I'll do everything humanly possible
To relieve the sadness you feel
Inside the love I feel for you
Keeps me alive and strong
When I think of being in your arms again
My spirit flies like an eagle to your heart
I see your face encased in lonely dispare
When I sent a letter or picture
back home from this prison
And I cry tears of joy and sadness
For a love - your sweet love
That has made me unafraid
That has made me strong
That will make me go the rest
of my prison sentence until
I return back to that love I've known,
What can I do to ease this pain for you George
Will writing you make me feel help?

Ann R.



GREATER VANCOUVER



DAN SCOTT

ROD SCHNOB, BRUCE CHESTER: first-ever book launch in a Canadian federal prison

Convict poet launches book from behind bars

By **ROBERT SARTI**

The maximum-security Kent Institution racked up another literary landmark Friday with the first-ever "book launch" in a Canadian federal prison.

Amid the cookies and coffee, Bruce Chester gave a reading from his just-published book of poems, *Paper Radio*, to more than a dozen literary people and reporters from the outside.

One poem told about having a high old time drinking home-made "blueberry wine of great vintage" in his cell with some friends.

Another described what happened afterwards — being sent to the Hole and flopping on a "railroad strip mattress gritty with sand."

"I started writing because of

the boredom of listening to the same old thing on the radio," Chester said in an interview.

"I started by writing letters to friends, containing poetic images, and it just went from there."

Chester, a 33-year-old Metis serving a life sentence for murder, is the second Kent prisoner in the past year to become a published author.

The first was Steve Reid, whose novel *Jackrabbit Parole* chronicled the life of a bank robber and escape artist.

Like Reid, Chester was a participant in the nationally recognized Writers' Workshop program conducted behind bars at Kent by the Simon Fraser University Prison Education Project.

AN INMATE

People ask, what is an inmate or a convict?
Whatever the case may be,
They fail to realize, that he or she is a person,
Or they're just too blind to see.

Inmates are people,
People who love & share,
Inmates are people,
People who love & care.

Inmates are people,
Just like you & I,
They are born, they live & they die,
Believe it or not they have feelings,
They know how to cry,
Because they've lost a loved one,
Or a wife or sweetheart has said good bye.

I know you can say,
They've stolen or cheated & lied,
But I think everyone of us,
Has something to hide.

I know there are people,
Who'll help this type of man,
And all I can say is thank you,
Because you seem to understand.

Inmates are people,
People with hopes & dreams,
Don't believe everyone in jail,
Is vicious & mean.

Yes an inmate is a person,
A person whose made mistakes,
But don't look down your nose,
Please give the man a break.

Now you may ask yourself,
Why I wrote this poem,
Its because I was a convict,
And prison was my home.

Now I can only hope,
That you'll accept me as a man,
And that this poem,
Will give you a better understanding,
Of an inmate, of a man.....

THIS POEM WAS SUBMITTED
BY A SUBSCRIBER --
Brother Tony Roberts
Readers comments--suggestions
are most welcome.

jm

THE POEM "The Cross In My Pocket"

Will send free upon request
write

Brother Tony Roberts
44 Lumsden Cres.,
Cambridge, Ontario
Canada N1R 5N3

CREATRESS MOTHER, she
squats with gaping
crimson lips spread
sucking meat with living s e e d s

BLOATED CREATURE, she
spews forth spore
futile futures shadows
living lives of salted t e a r s
that etch
and carve with s l o w perfection
a channel to the heart from whence

they
fel_L

jm



The WHIG STANDARD, Wednesday, August 26, 1987

Inmates give to food bank

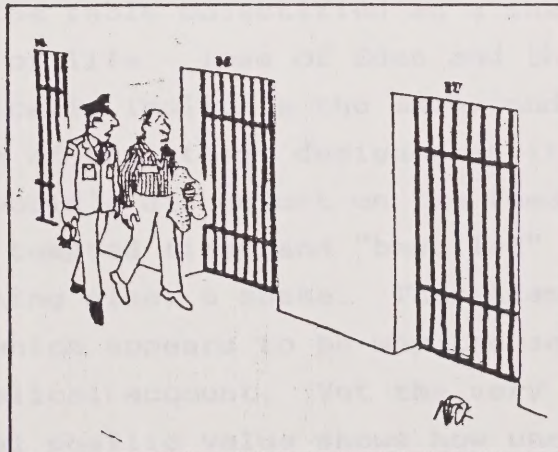
There were surprises all round when a group of inmates from Collins Bay Institution presented the Partners in Mission Food Bank with a cheque for \$741.89

Last week

Suzanne Flannagan, co-ordinator of the food bank, said she had been invited to speak at a weekly meeting of the Collins Bay Institution chapter of the John Howard Society.

"We went there to give a spiel on our food bank and surprise, surprise, they presented us with a cheque for \$741," Flannagan said.

Punch



"Smoking or non-smoking?"

THE FALL OF MAN

One of the leading myths of Western Culture is the Biblical story of the Fall. The tale of Adam and Eve is, among other things, a narrative of how humanity invented sexual intercourse. Many such narratives exist in preliterate myth and folktale. Most of them strike us now as delightfully funny stories of primal innocents who require a good deal of helpful instruction to figure it out. There are other major themes in the story: the loss of primeval simplicity, the arrival of death, and the first conscious experience of knowledge. All of them revolve about sex. Adam is forbidden to eat of the fruit of life or of the knowledge of good and evil, the warning states explicitly what should happen if he tastes of the latter: "...you must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die." He eats but fails to die (at least in the story), from which one might infer that the serpent told the truth.

But at the moment when the pair eat of the forbidden tree they awake to their nakedness and feel ashamed. Sexuality is clearly involved, though the fable insists it is only tangential to a higher prohibition against disobeying orders in the matter of another and less controversial appetite - one for food. Note: the Hebrew verb for "eat" can also mean coitus. Everywhere in the Bible "knowing" is synonymous with sexuality, and clearly a product of contact with the phallus, here in the fable objectified as a snake. To blame the evils and sorrows of life - loss of Eden and the rest - on sexuality, would all too logically implicate the male, and such implication is hardly the purpose of the story, designed as it is expressly in order to blame all the world's discomfort on the female. Therefore it is the female who is tempted first and "beguiled" by the penis, transformed into something else, a snake. Thus Adam has "beaten the rap" of sexual guilt, which appears to be why the sexual motive is so repressed in the Biblical account. Yet the very transparency of the serpent's universal phallic value shows how uneasy the mythic mind can be about its shifts. Accordingly, in her inferiority and vulnerability the woman takes and eats, simple carnal thing that she is,

affected by flattery even in a reptile. Only after this does the male fall, and with him, humanity - for the fable has made him the racial type, whereas Eve is a mere sexual type and, according to tradition, either expendable or replaceable. And as the myth records the original sexual adventure, Adam was seduced by woman, who was seduced by a penis. "The woman you put here with me - she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." This is the first man's defense. Seduced by the phallic snake, Eve is convicted for Adam's participation in sex.

Adam's curse is to toil in the "sweat of his brow," namely the labour the male associates with civilization. Eden was a fantasy world without either effort or activity, which the entrance of the female, and with her sexuality, has destroyed. Eve's sentence is far more political in nature and a brilliant "explanation" of her inferior status. "I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you." A proprietary father figure is punishing his subjects for adult heterosexuality. The myth adopts a negative attitude toward sexuality: Sexual maturity is regarded as a misfortune, it has robbed mankind of happiness, and is the explanation of how death came into the world.

What requires further emphasis is the responsibility of the female, a marginal creature, in bringing on this plague, and the justice of her suborned condition as dependent on her primary role in this original sin. The connection of women, sex, and sin constitutes the fundamental pattern of western patriarchal thought.

AMEN SISTER!!--Thanks for the submitting this article.
ed.

ADVICE FROM UP HIGH

THE TONGUE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MORE GOOD
and EVIL, THAN ANY OTHER
MEMBER OF THE BODY



This Fall has seen a regular weekly group meeting to discuss the topic of "Chit Chat". The guideline for these discussions The Ten Commandments of the Tongue, is useful to all of us.

1. Thou shalt not gossip.
2. Thou shalt not use a multitude of empty words.
3. Thou shalt not boast.
4. Thou shalt not flatter.
5. Thou shalt not grumble.
6. Thou shalt not backbite or slander.
7. Thou shalt not mock or make fun.
8. Thou shalt not lie.
9. Thou shalt not swear.
10. Thou shalt not argue in anger.

Besides being a good moral code, keep in mind-----

LOOSE LIPS ---SINK SHIPS and COST FRIENDS!!!

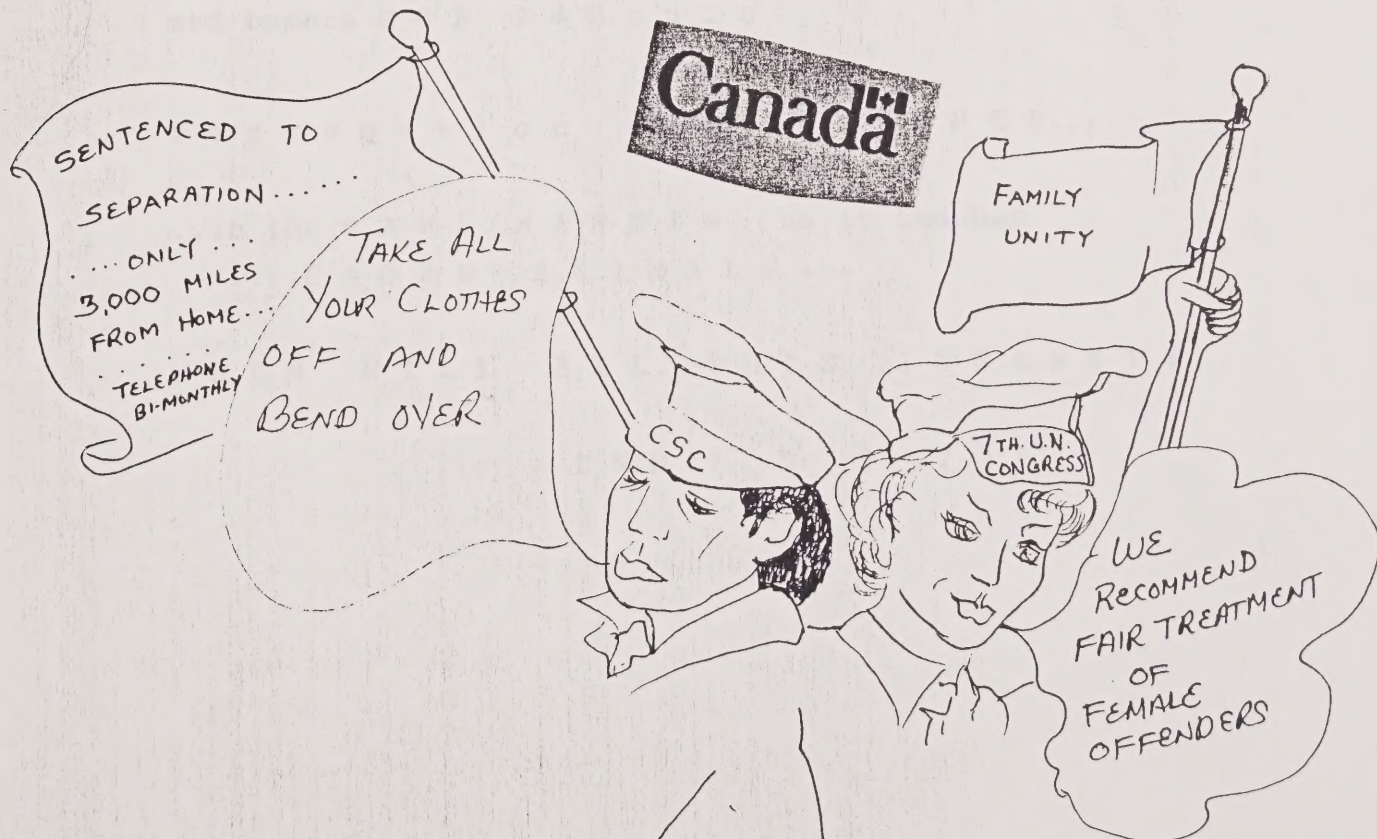
PRISON INJUSTICE

"Supposed to be scum, dumb, and numb for being in jail, mum"

Already severely punished, inside, the harassment continues...
Deaf ears, up-turned jaws and eyes crossed
Personal frustrations and falsely printed daily news
Juice the stories of a once normal people
Not for a moment do they take the time
To ponder and think of what circumstances
Led these individuals to this horrid contraption,
Of humid, moldy interior
The prisoner cannot speak but stay inferior
Unbelieved, continuously laboring to prove a point
Lost in a winding maze where every turn
evolves around the same gaze
Politeness is misunderstood for weakness

"Why respect them, they are scum, dumb and numb!"

Doriana



*note...SEGREGATION IS THE ISSUE
THIS POEM IS NOTE INTENDED TO IMPLY PHYSICAL BEATINGS ARE USED AS
PUNISHMENT IN THIS PRISON...this statement directed by censors..ed.

t h e S C R E A M S w e r e c h i l l i n g
through them I c o u l d h e a r

.....I d i d n " t D O A N Y T H I N G

the next day

 t h e S C R E A M S c o u l d b e h e a r d
 a l l t h e w a y f r o m t h e y a r d
...do your own time
 b u t s h e i s t h e s a m e a g e a s m i n e

"she'll just have to learn that she can't give
 threatening looks"

t h e l a s t t i m e s h e w a s i n s e g

she got so many additional charges, her original 27 days
became 1 1 2 d a y s A L L u n d e r t h e l i g h t
and camera F O R 2 4 H o u r s .

S e g r e g a t i o n w i l l T E A C H H E R....

..in the S A M E M A N N E R a s i t t e a c h e s
 C A G E D A N I M A L S ...

W H E N W I L L A L L T H I S I N S A N I T Y

E N D ? ? ? ? ?

MOMENTS OF MOTION

I have often watched the graceful, fluidlike body expression of Gayle, Jo-Ann and Sugar, women in motion as they perform the art of Tai Chi. It is quite beautiful to see; to each their own escape.

The bottom line is - I was reading some verse in "To See the World in a Grain of Sand" and came across the writing below ... my thoughts turned to those three fellow inmates - even as a mere observer, in watching those women it brought me momentary peace of mind. Thanks.

To look at any thing,
If you would know that thing,
You must look at it long:

To look at this green and say
"I have seen spring in these
Woods," will not do - you must
Be the thing you see:

You must be the dark snakes of
Stems and ferny plumes of leaves,
You must take your time
And touch the very peace
They issue from.

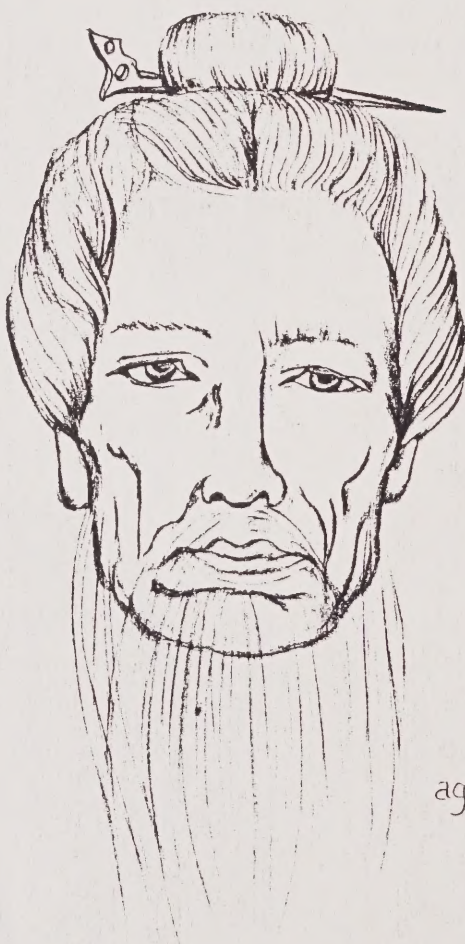
thank you, Patrice -
for sharing.





aged 16

S
A
I
H
U
N
G



aged 70

6/4/87

THE WANDERING TAOIST, 1983,
Harper & Row, DENG, Ming-Dao,

Though Deng, a 33 year old San Francisco graphic Artist, lacks a lifetime pedigree of martial arts practice, he has trained enough in the staff and the sword to write convincingly about them in action, and in particular about his mentor and Grand Master of Huashan, Saihung now teaching in the San Francisco bay area....

Tai Chi has been part of my personal salvation here in prison. I can think of nothing to compare in assisting one's good physical and mental health. Particularly while in segregation, I found Tai Chi, (which can be done in one's cage), permitted me a semblance of centering when around one, the blood and pain seep out of the walls.

The sharing of Master Saihung's path is gratefully accepted by myself. "If only people knew what kind of masters once existed, they would have more respect, more knowledge about how to seek a spiritual path," says Saihung.

I particularly found direction with Saihung's conviction about the inconsequentiality of dying.

GKH/87

"Individual existence is the primary illusion to be discarded. It's not your personal possession. Cultivation means peeling off ever more subtle layers of illusion, not skin. If you want to reach salvation, reach your heaven, you can't hold onto your body. You don't possess it. Even your identity doesn't belong to you. I come from the place of the original breath. Death has no meaning except as a welcome release from this aging body. Death means the loss of an identity that has no reality to begin with. Nothing starts with birth, nothing ends with death. A dead person is only shedding one illusion, existing in another form. We are separate identities only for a split second, then we return to the source. True followers of the Way have no identity. You don't own yourselves, please. Your mind is destined to be the whole universe."

Saihung



Our Love For All



Tree design
by
Joanne R.

Outside readers should note that while every attempt is made to publish facts with accuracy, the nature of the Prison System does not encourage free disclosure. All views and opinions expressed in TIGHTWIRE are those of the authors and artists, these are not necessarily endorsed by the Administration

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